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LABOR INFORMATION BULLETIN

VOLUME III MARCH 1936 NUMBER 3

Issued by
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U. S. Department of Labor
Washington

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
FRANCES PERKINS, Secretary
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
ISADOR LUBIN, Commissioner

LABOR INFORMATION BULLETIN

MARCH 1936

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BORIS STERN, Editor

54708-O U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1936

SILICOSIS—AN OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

By

ROY R. JONES, M. D., DIVISION OF LABOR STANDARDS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Approximately 2,000,000 workers in the United States are engaged in industries which have a silicosis hazard, and more than 500,000 of them are exposed to an amount of silica dust which is harmful to their health. To protect these workers it is necessary to introduce scientific methods of exhausting the silica dust from workplaces, to provide medical treatment for exposed and diseased workers, and to guarantee them adequate compensation. The Secretary of Labor announced on February 27 that she would soon call a national conference of representatives of industry and labor, Federal and State health and labor commissions, and safety experts and engineers to map plans for a cooperative campaign to combat this disease.

Silicosis is a disease of the lungs contracted by workers who in the course of their work are exposed to the dust of free silica rock. It constitutes an occupational hazard to men employed in tunneling, quarrying, mining, and excavating, where drilling, blasting, and cutting operations fill the air with tiny particles of silica dust. Workers employed in processing mineral products, such as ore smelting and refining, and in industries in which silicon containing abrasives are used are also likely to contract the disease. The chief hazardous occupations are:

Abrasive-powder makers	Hard-rock miners
Abrasive-soap makers	Metal grinders
Blasters (sand)	Pottery makers
Brickmakers	Pneumatic rock drillers
Carborundum makers	Polishers
Coal miners	Stone finishers
Core makers	Slate quarriers
Excavation workers	Slate finishers
Foundry workers	Sand pulverizers
Glass makers	Tunnelers
Glass mixers	Vitreous enamelers

Granite quarriers

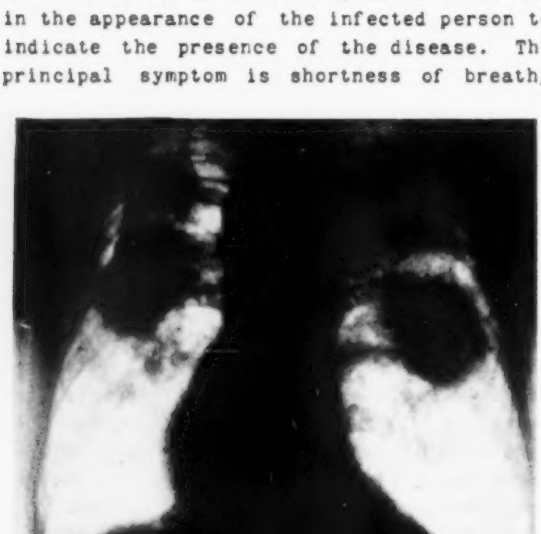
The disease results from the tiny silica dust particles which penetrate the lungs of the workers. Constant exposure to the silica dust first inflames the tissues of the lungs and then completely destroys them, leaving enlarged hardened scar tissues instead. The victims of silicosis suffer from infection of the lungs and are extremely susceptible to pulmonary tuberculosis. It has been estimated that three out of every four workers disabled by silicosis also suffer from pulmonary tuberculosis. This combination usually leads to an early death.

Silicosis is not particularly a disease of the modern industrial age. As early as 430 B.C. an ancient Greek physician observed the injurious effects of particles of dust upon the lungs of workmen. The medical literature of practically all civilized countries contains references to this disease. It is particularly prevalent in the hard-rock mining districts of the world -- among the gold and silver miners in Australia, the gold miners of New Zealand and South Africa, the tin miners of Great Britain, and the workers employed in the mining districts in the United States.

The effects of the disease depend largely on the amount of silica dust inhaled and the length of time workers are exposed to it. Generally, workers do not become disabled by this disease in less than 3 to 5 years of exposure. In a majority of cases 15 to 20 years may elapse before pronounced injurious effects are felt. However, it is true that cases of so-called "acute" silicosis have developed following brief exposure to large amounts of dust containing free silica, as in the manufacture of some abrasive cleaning powders and in some underground work where no measures were introduced to control the dust hazard. When death results in such cases it is due to a form of pneumonia caused by irritation from the dust and the accompanying infection.

In addition to dust concentration and the length of exposure, the size of the particles of silica inhaled into the lungs is of great importance. The smallest particles of silica are the most injurious. These penetrate the lungs and attack and inflame the most delicate and sensitive tissues.

Symptoms of Silicosis. In the early stages of silicosis, if not complicated by other diseases or infection, there is little in the appearance of the infected person to indicate the presence of the disease. The principal symptom is shortness of breath,



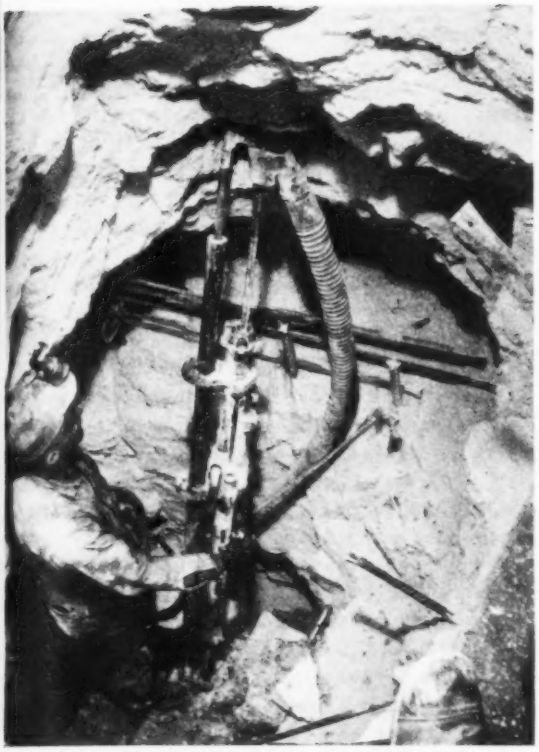
LUNGS SCARRED BY SILICA DUST

ROCK DRILLING WITHOUT DUST CONTROL DEVICE

which may usually be observed after work or exercise. As the disease advances, a dry, rasping cough develops. Frequently, persons with moderately advanced silicosis complain of spitting blood, especially after strenuous work or prolonged attacks of coughing. When complicated with other infections persons suffering from silicosis lose weight and often complain of digestive disturbances. At this stage a general impairment of the worker's health is distinctly noticeable and permanent disability becomes imminent.

Prevention of Silicosis. A sound comprehensive program of industrial safety strictly observed by employers and workers offers the best preventive means against this disease. Although the silicosis hazard has been known for a long time, there exists as yet no generally accepted method of prevention. Its serious effects require that the job of prevention be undertaken throughout all the industries affected.

Workers with evidence of active tuberculosis or extensive healed lung lesions should not be employed in places where the



ROCK DRILLING WITH DUST CONTROL DEVICE IN OPERATION

may be exposed to silica dust. Such employment aggravates their own health and is a serious menace to their fellow workers and to the industry. Further exposure of infected workers to silica dust will greatly increase the compensation burden of the employer. It will also make it more difficult to carry out the prevention and control of tuberculosis among the population as a whole.

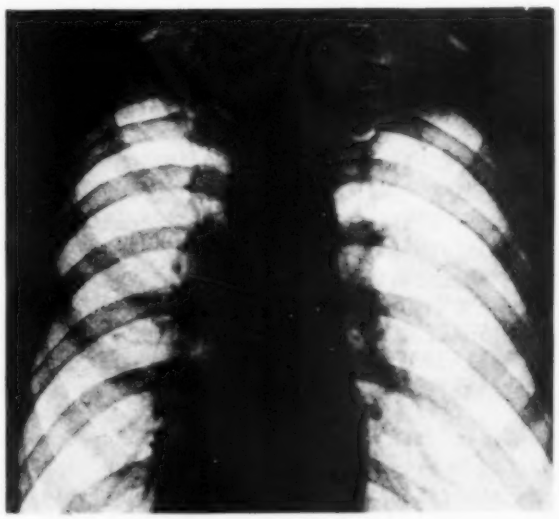
No evidence, however, is available to show that individuals exhibiting definite signs of silicosis, but still not disabled, will develop the disease more rapidly at their usual work than if taken away from it. Therefore, those able to work should be permitted to do so, provided the conditions under which they are employed are reasonably controlled and any unnecessary contact with persons suffering from active pulmonary tuberculosis is prevented.

From an engineering and mechanical point of view the prevention of silicosis can be accomplished by such methods as will prevent the escape of silica dust into the workroom. Where this cannot be done means should be provided for the prompt removal of the dust from the air. For emergency use and for short working periods in dusty places approved dust masks or other similar mechanical equipment are helpful.

Air-filtering systems which rapidly exhaust dusty air and replace it with fresh clean air can be used successfully in many industrial operations. Water sprays and other wetting down methods also serve to keep down the dust particles and thus mitigate the danger of exposure.

Wherever practicable dusty processes should be isolated from other divisions of the plant, thus subjecting as few employees as possible to the hazard of silicosis. Pneumatic jackhammers with dust traps attached can be used effectively in certain processes to remove the silica dust at its origin. In blasting operations which require the removal of silica rock from tunnels or mines it has been found practical to blast after regular working hours or between shifts, allowing sufficient time for the air to clear. Water sprays released simultaneously with the blasting help to prevent the spread of the dust.

Immediate Problems. At the present time, a principal objective should be a program of education giving proper publicity to all known facts concerning the causes and



NORMAL LUNGS

the methods of preventing or controlling the disease. Employers, employees, the medical profession, and Government agencies must be educated to this point of view. Some industries have been negligent, while others have given serious consideration to a program of control. Workers have not always cooperated in taking advantage of measures and protective devices designed for their safety. The research and educational activities of the U. S. Public Health Service, the clinical and experimental studies of other public and private health services, universities, hospitals, and insurance companies have contributed measurably to spreading information concerning silicosis.

Another important problem confronting industry and workers today centers about the financial care of the victims of silicosis. During recent years suits filed by workers claiming damages because of silicosis and other dust diseases have risen sharply. Individual awards exceeding $20,000 have been secured in a few instances. On the other hand, scores of cases have been thrown out by the civil courts because the laws in some States do not permit filing damage claim more than 1 year after the claimant has left the company's employ. Unfortunately, at times, unscrupulous individuals both in the legal and medical professions have attempted to exploit to their own advantage both the victims of silicosis and their employers through suits for unreasonable damages.

Few States have given special consideration to this problem in developing their program of workmen's compensation. Yet silicosis is an occupational hazard for hundreds of thousands of workers, and the necessity of planning a system of compensation offering fair protection to labor and industry alike is plainly apparent.

A broad and equitable plan must be devised to care for workers now actually disabled from silicosis. The fact that workers are not disabled until after years of exposure, or perhaps until after they have left their hazardous employment, makes it difficult to place the costs of compensation where they rightfully belong. This difficulty, however, should not act as a bar toward a fair and rational solution.

Labor Laws and their Enforcement in Connecticut

Joseph M. Tone, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Labor and Factory Inspection

Connecticut has more factory workers per square mile and per thousand population than any other State except Rhode Island. In spite of this highly industrialized position, Connecticut's labor laws until recently had not kept pace with the developments in industry. Prior to 1933, she had less protective labor legislation than most great manufacturing States.

The industrial crisis of 1929-32, combined with the growth of sweatshop conditions in several industrial centers, called the attention of the State and the legislature to the need for protective labor laws. The result was a considerable extension of labor legislation in the sessions of 1933 and 1935.

Three important labor bills were enacted in 1933. These were the Minimum Wage Act, the Industrial Homework Act, and the act accepting the Federal Wagner-Peyser law providing for a system of State-Federal employment offices. In 1935, Connecticut adopted six additional labor measures. These acts --

1. Prohibit the employment of children under 16 years of age in manufacturing, mechanical, mercantile, and certain other establishments;

2. Prohibit the employment of minors under 18 years in any occupation deemed hazardous or injurious to health;

3. Limit the hours of employment for women and minors under 18 in manufacturing and mechanical plants to 8 hours per day and 48 hours per week;

4. Prohibit women and minors under 18 from working in manufacturing, mechanical, and mercantile establishments after 10 p.m. or before 6 a.m.;

5. Prohibit the giving out or receiving of materials for homework in Connecticut, except by license granted by the Commissioner of Labor after proof that such homework is neeessary and customary in the industry; and

6. Create a Board of Mediation and Arbitration in the Department of Labor.

During 1935, Connecticut also passed an old-age pension law which will vitally affect many workers and their families.

FACTORY INSPECTION

The Connecticut Department of Labor and Factory Inspection has 18 inspectors to enforce the laws in regard to hours of labor, including industrial homework, sanitation, and safety, and elevator and boiler inspections. In addition to the routine inspections of manufacturing, mechanical, and mercantile establishments, a large part of the time of the inspectors is taken up with the new law limiting the working hours of women and of minors between the ages of 16 and 18.

The administration of the 1935 industrial homework law is also vested in the Factory Inspection Division. One full-time inspector is delegated to this job. The homework law forbids any employer to distribute materials for processing in homes without a certificate or license issued by authority of the Commissioner of Labor. The Commissioner can issue licenses to employers to distribute homework only when it is shown that the homeworker is physically incapacitated for work in a factory, or that his or her services are essential in the home, or that homework is customary in the industry or occupation in the State of Connecticut.

The burden of proof is placed upon each employer who sends such work into homes. Under the new law all unlicensed homework is illegal and punishable by fines. To date, most applications for licenses have been rejected because the work requires the use of dangerous machines in homes, or because the workers are able to work in a shop where the processes can be subjected to the inspection of the Department. This new type of homework regulation by prohibition has enabled the Factory Inspection Division to reduce the number of homeworkers from well over 3,000 at the beginning of 1935 to only 124 licensed operatives working for 28 employers as of January 1, 1936. Under the regulations of the Department, all homeworkers are paid factory wages.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

This division was created in 1918, but because of a lack of necessary appropriations the bureau has never been able to proceed with its assigned task of collecting and disseminating statistical information on employment, wage rates and earnings, industrial accidents and diseases, cost of living, and other matters of importance relating to labor and industry.

The Minimum Wage Division within the Bureau of Labor Statistics was created by the Minimum Wage Act of 1933. It was empowered to investigate the wages paid to women or minors in any occupation. If it finds that any substantial number of women or minors are receiving oppressive or unreasonable wages, it has the power to appoint a wage board for the establishment of a minimum wage.

A law of major importance to workers and employers is the act creating a Board of

Mediation and Arbitration in the Department of Labor. This board is composed of three members representing labor, industry, and the general public. Investigation of disputes for the board is carried on by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Since the board's creation on May 31, 1935, it has handled 12 disputes, and satisfactory agreements have been reached in 11 of these cases, involving 4,200 workers. The board has aided greatly in maintaining industrial peace in Connecticut.

All private employment agencies are required to obtain a license from the Commissioner of Labor before engaging in business. Consequently, they are under the nominal supervision of the Department. However, the law gives the Department only the authority to require that the premises occupied by such agencies be suitable. The Department has no control over fees charged and consequently has been handicapped in its attempts to stamp out the most glaring abuses found in this type of agency.

The collection of wages withheld by employers in violation of State laws is another major function of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

STATE-FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The Connecticut State Employment Service affiliated with the U. S. Employment Service in 1933. Employment offices are maintained in six cities, with two branch offices established in smaller communities. In addition, the National Reemployment Service has offices in four communities to supplement the work of the State Employment Service during an emergency period. The personnel of all employment services have been selected on a merit basis by examination.

These employment exchanges seek to make existing employment opportunities available to workers and to provide employers with qualified employees. No fee is charged either the worker or the employer. During 1935, the combined services registered 72,167 applicants for jobs and made 46,903 placements. At the close of the year, 77,660 persons were registered as being actively in search of employment. Although the appropriations for the employment service are matched by the Federal Government, the total is insufficient to provide an adequate employment service and to maintain high standards of operation.

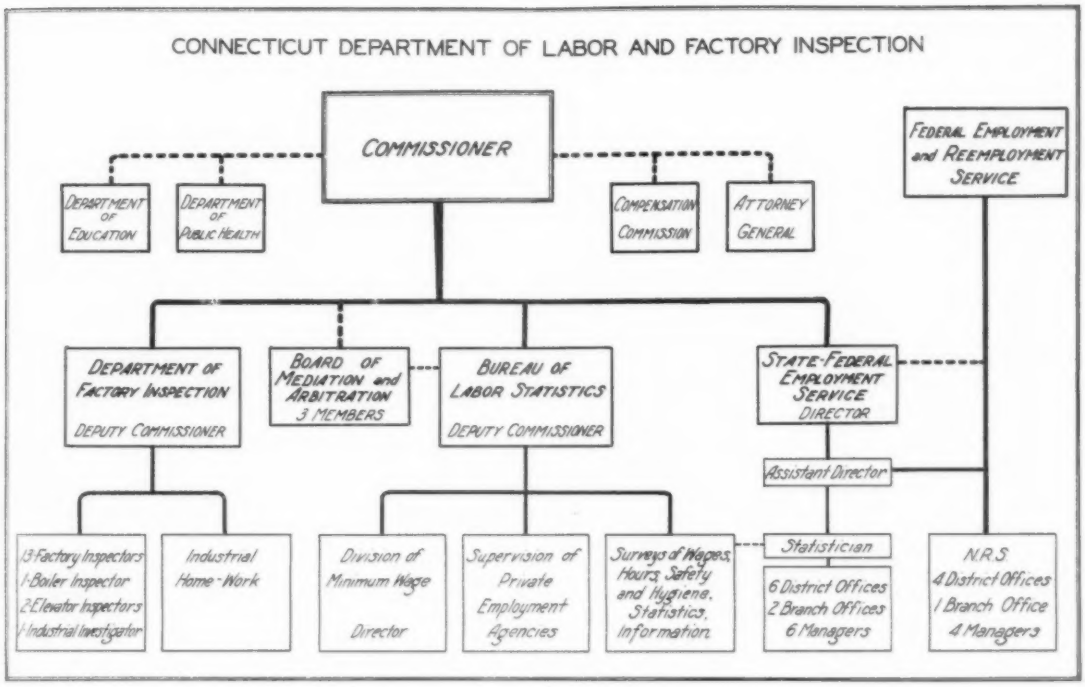
COURTS AS LABOR-LAW ENFORCING AGENCIES

Courts are the final authorities in all law enforcement. The vast powers exercised by the prosecuting and State attorneys and the local judges in making labor laws effective or noneffective are seldom mentioned in discussions of labor-law administration. In its attempts to penalize violators the Connecticut Department of Labor has usually received the cooperation of the courts. However, on occasion it has been blocked by local courts and the prosecuting attorneys. Such instances are extremely unfortunate because they bring discredit upon the courts and the whole judicial system, and seriously handicap the enforcement activities of the Department.

FUTURE NEEDS AND PROBLEMS

Although the laws passed in 1933 and in 1935 add a great deal to the effectiveness of the Connecticut Department of Labor and to the protection afforded various groups of workers in the State, further legislation is both desirable and necessary. The existing labor legislation of Connecticut should be rewritten into a systematic labor code giving adequate protection to all workers in all industries. Such a code would do away with the confusion arising from the present system of separate and sometimes contradictory laws.

The Workmen's Compensation Act should be greatly improved. Its administration should be reorganized and coordinated with the Department of Labor so as to lay more



stress upon prevention, rather than mere remuneration of industrial disabilities due to accidents or illness. A State workmen's compensation insurance fund should be created to insure the industrial hazards of all employers who are not covered by private insurance companies.

To become of real service to labor and industry the Connecticut Department of Labor also needs: (1) a personnel system providing for promotions and salary increases based upon demonstrated ability and achievements; (2) a larger number of qualified inspectors; (3) an advisory committee on standards to devise and establish standard safety, health, and sanitation codes; (4) a minimum wage division to make industrial surveys and to enforce more adequately the Minimum Wage Act and the Industrial Homework Act; (5) full authority to eliminate job racketeering by private employment agencies; (6) a bureau to make investigations and to compile statistics and information on all subjects relating to labor and employment; (7) a more complete State-Federal employment system to carry out the unemployment-insurance act when passed, as well as to place workers in jobs and to cooperate with other State and Federal agencies in compiling statistics and information relating to Connecticut industries and opportunities for industrial employment; (8) more effective cooperation of the courts, the prosecuting attorneys, and the State's attorneys in prompt and vigorous enforcement of labor laws with adequate penalties for violators.

PRODUCTION, EMPLOYMENT, AND PAY ROLLS IN 1935

Industry as a whole produced a greater volume of goods, employed more workers, and paid out more dollars in wages in 1935 than in any year since 1930. Production in such basic industries as steel, automobiles, and electric light and power climbed significantly upward during the course of the year. Smaller but none the less important gains in output occurred in bituminous-coal mining, the manufacture of boots and shoes, and in numerous other industries. More freight cars were loaded by Class I railroads last year than in 1934, but in cotton-textile mills and in the manufacture of various food products activity fell below the levels established by these groups in 1934.

Slightly more than 4 million passenger cars and trucks were produced in the United States during 1935. Improved business conditions and earlier introduction of new models largely accounted for this rise in production. While the number of units assembled during the year amounted to 74 percent of the 1929 output, employment averaged 98 percent and weekly pay rolls 89 percent of 1929.

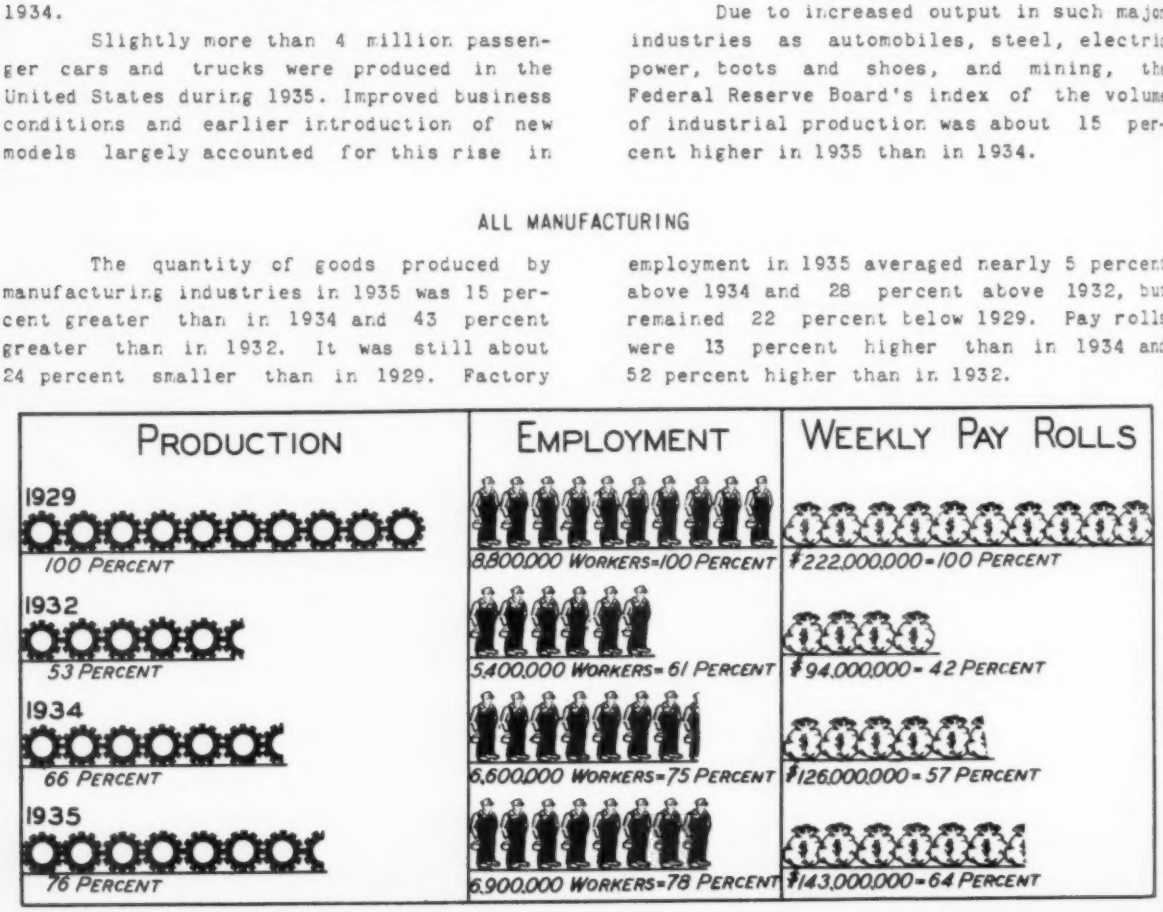
The sharp gain in automobile manufacturing also stimulated activity in steel mills with the result that 30 percent more ingots were produced last year than in 1934. Employment in blast furnaces and rolling mills advanced 6 percent and pay rolls 2[illegible] percent.

Electric power production of 99.4 million kilowatt hours exceeded by about [illegible] percent the record of 97.4 billion kilowatt hours established by the industry in 1929.

Due to increased output in such major industries as automobiles, steel, electric power, boots and shoes, and mining, the Federal Reserve Board's index of the volume of industrial production was about 15 percent higher in 1935 than in 1934.

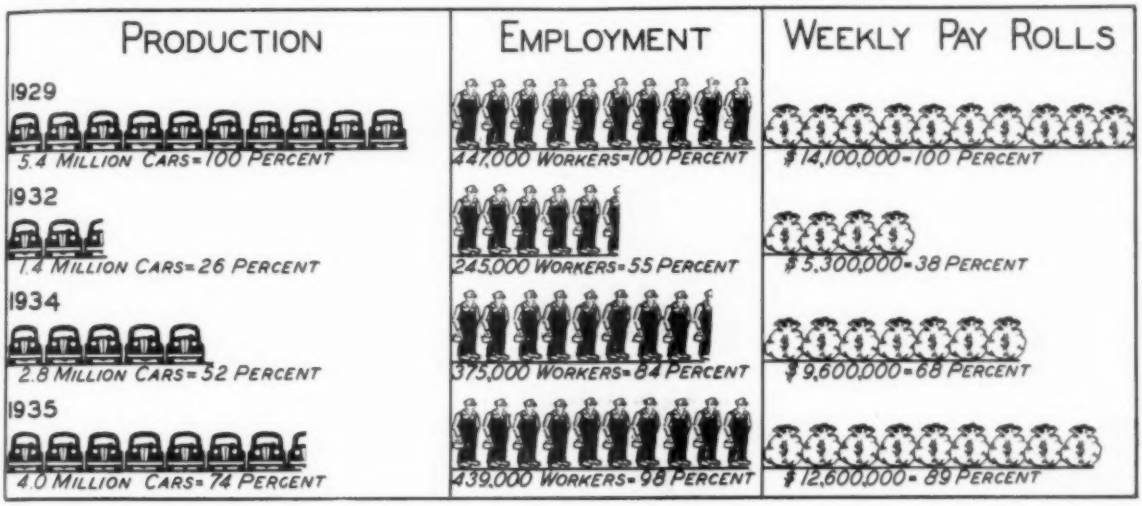
ALL MANUFACTURING

The quantity of goods produced by manufacturing industries in 1935 was 15 percent greater than in 1934 and 43 percent greater than in 1932. It was still about 24 percent smaller than in 1929. Factory employment in 1935 averaged nearly 5 percent above 1934 and 28 percent above 1932, but remained 22 percent below 1929. Pay rolls were 13 percent higher than in 1934 and 52 percent higher than in 1932.



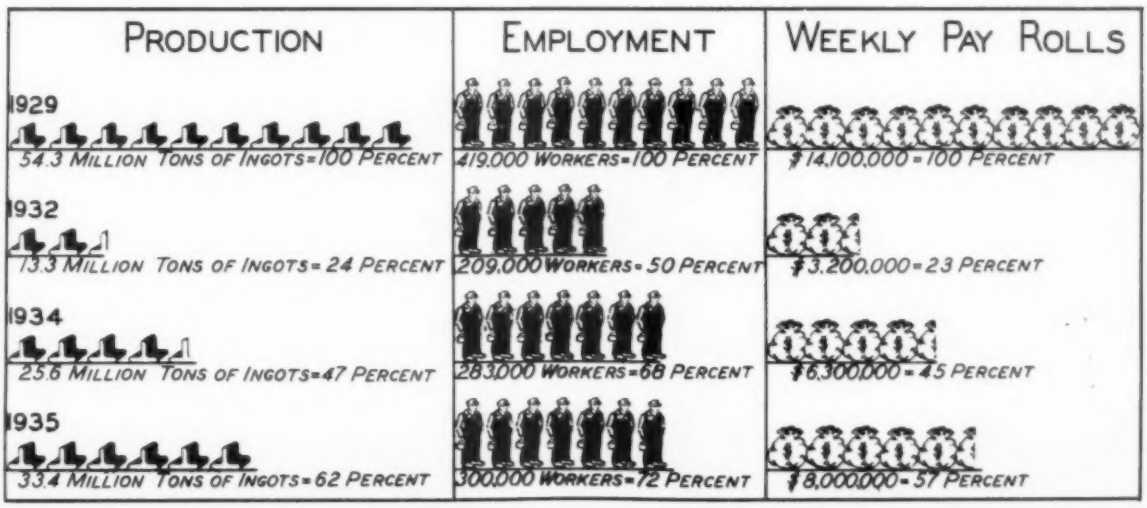
AUTOMOBILES

Total production of passenger cars and trucks in the United States in 1935 was 43 percent greater than in the preceding year, and nearly three times as large as in 1932. It was 74 percent as great as in 1929. Employment over the year increased by nearly 18 percent, and almost reached the 1929 level. Weekly pay rolls rose by 31 percent during 1935, but remained 11 percent below 1929.



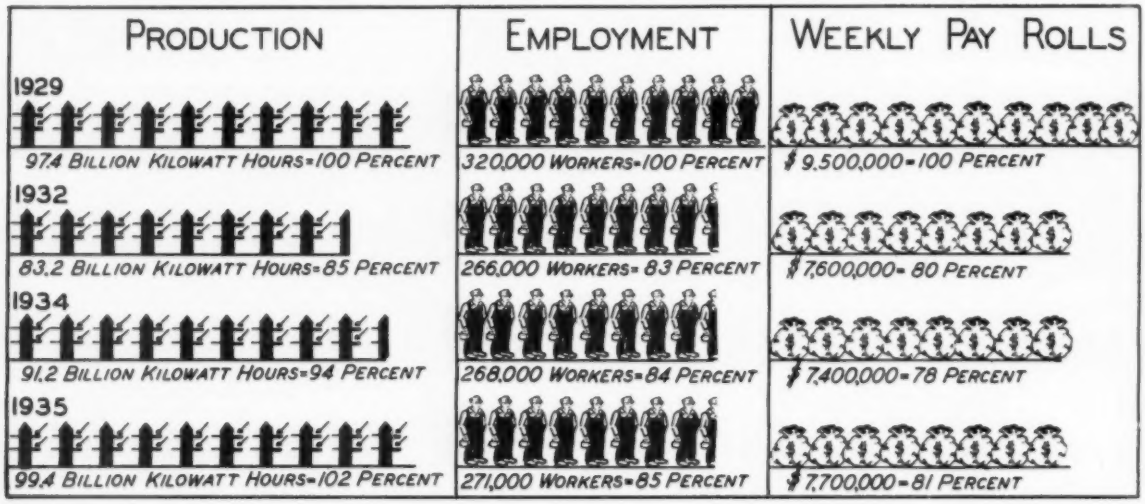
STEEL

Output of steel ingots in 1935 amounted to 33.4 million tons, as compared with 25.6 million tons in 1934, 13.3 million tons in 1932, and 54.3 million tons in 1929. Out of every 100 workers employed in blast furnaces and rolling mills in 1929, 72 had jobs last year, as against 68 in 1934 and 50 in 1932. Pay rolls advanced 27 percent during the year, and were 2½ times as large as in 1932.



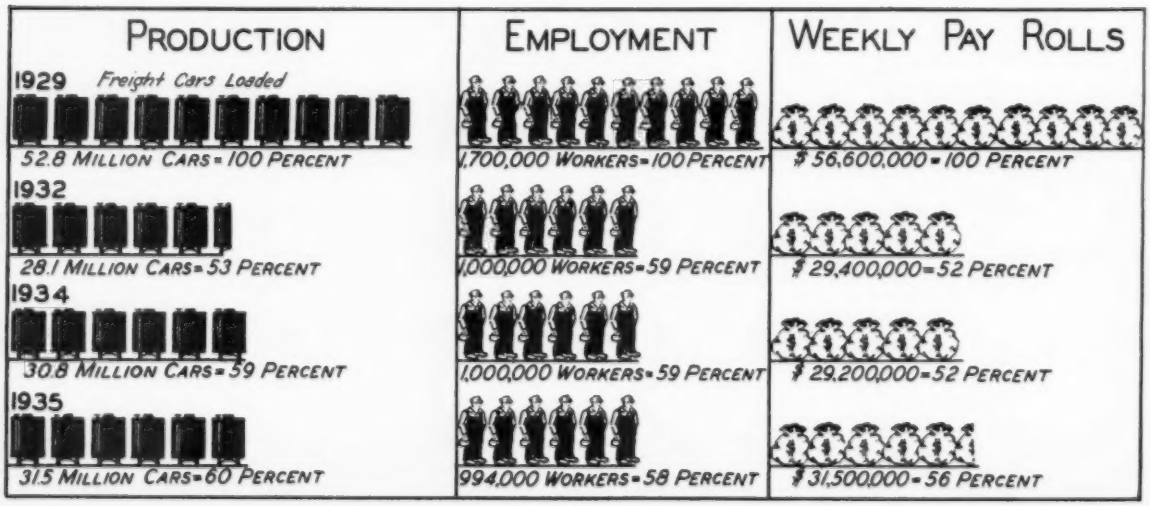
ELECTRIC POWER

Production of electricity for light and power purposes in 1935 was 9 percent greater than in 1934, 19 percent greater than in 1932, and 2 percent greater than in the peak year of 1929. Employment and pay rolls, however, increased only slightly in 1935 as compared with 1934 and 1932. The number of workers rose 1 percent in 1935, and weekly pay rolls averaged about 4 percent higher than in the preceding year.



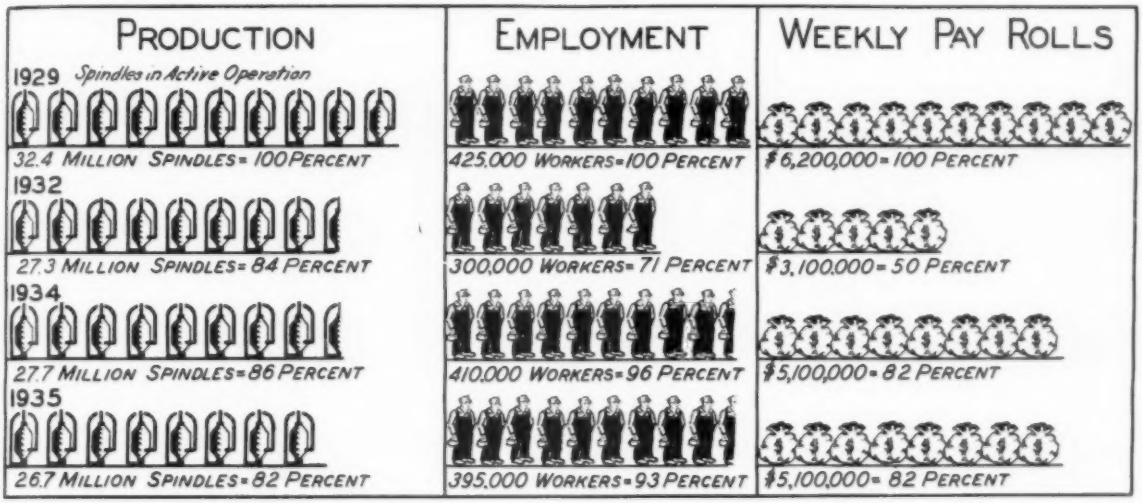
CLASS I RAILROADS

Class I railroads loaded slightly more freight cars in 1935 than in 1934 and 9 percent more than in 1932. The total remained about 40 percent below the level of 1929. Employment was not quite as high as in 1934 and 1932, and was only 58 percent as large as in 1929. Pay rolls increased by nearly 8 percent in 1935, due to the termination of the 10 percent wage deduction agreement.



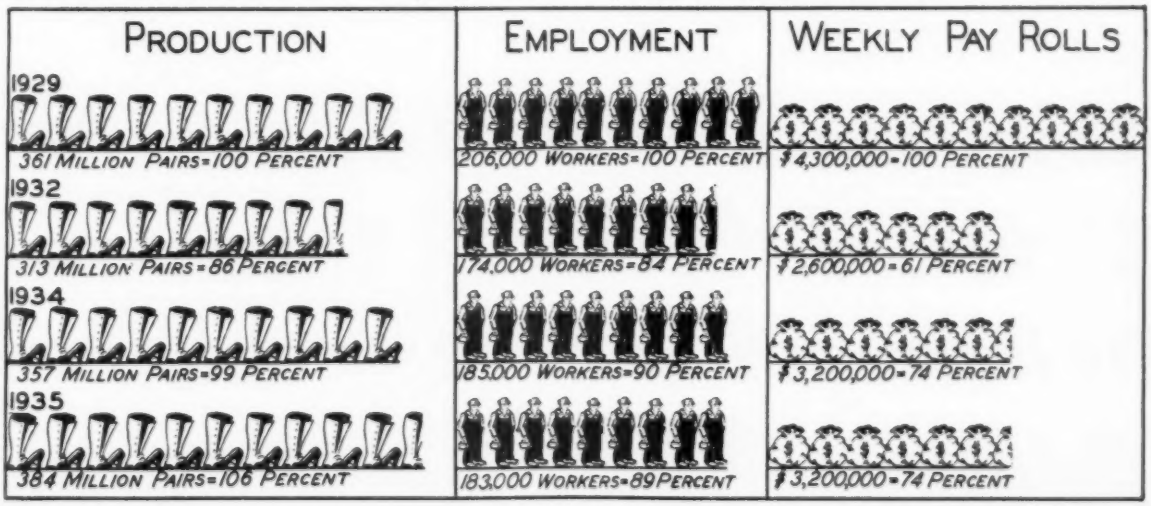
COTTON TEXTILES

Measured by the number of spindles in operation, cotton-textile mills were not quite as active last year as in 1934 and 1932. Although employment tapered off during the year it was more than 30 percent greater than in 1932 and only 7 percent smaller than in 1929. Average weekly pay rolls remained unchanged from 1934, and were 64 percent more than in 1932. They were about 18 percent smaller than in 1929.



BOOTS AND SHOES

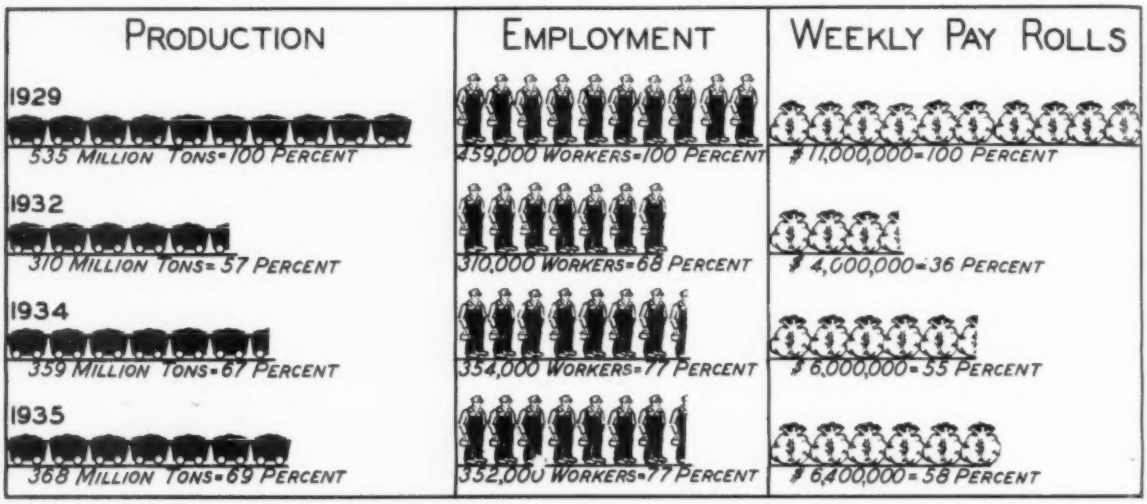
Boot and shoe production in 1935 exceeded by about 6 percent the volume of output in 1929.* It was 8 percent greater than 1934, and 23 percent greater than 1932. Employment, however, declined slightly last year, but was 5 percent above 1932. It still remained 11 percent below 1929. Weekly pay rolls were unchanged from 1934. They averaged 23 percent higher than 1932 but 26 percent smaller than 1929.



* The National Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association, in a letter to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, doubts the advisability of using pairs of shoes as a measure of output. They prefer, instead, the total value of shoes produced, but this is not available at present.

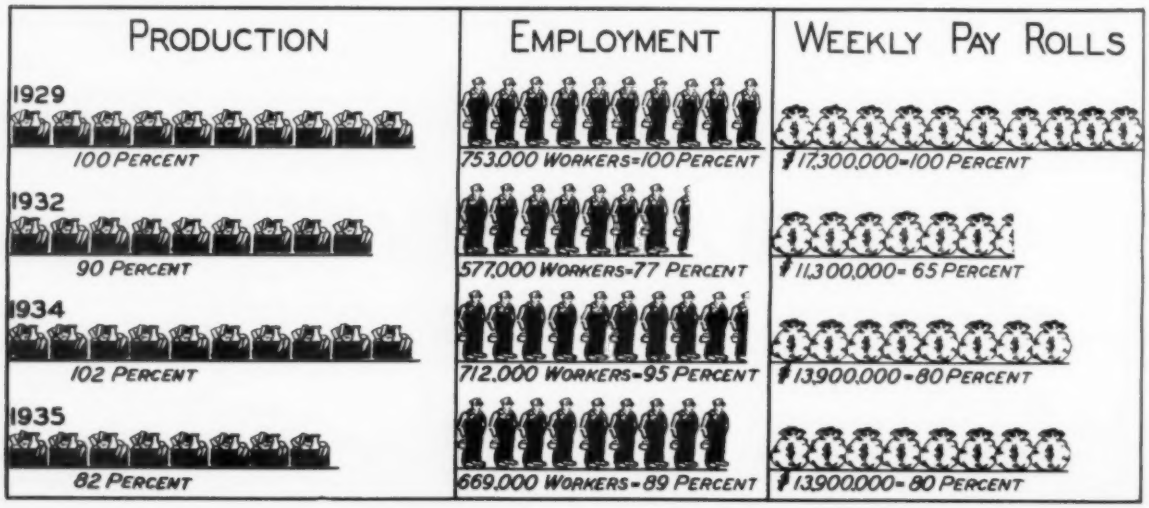
BITUMINOUS COAL

Production, employment, and weekly pay rolls in bituminous-coal mining in 1935 showed small changes from the previous year. The tonnage mined in 1935 was 19 percent more than in 1932, but 31 percent less than in 1929. Employment was more than 13 percent greater than in 1932, but 23 percent below 1929. Weekly pay rolls were 60 percent higher than 1932 but 42 percent below 1929.



FOOD PRODUCTS

Due principally to a sharp contraction in activity in slaughtering and meat packing, the Federal Reserve Board's index of food production declined by about 20 percent during 1935. Approximately 89 workers were engaged in the production of foodstuffs last year, as compared with 95 in 1934, 77 in 1932, and 100 in 1929. Weekly pay rolls averaged the same in 1935 and 1934, and were 23 percent greater than in 1932.



Building Construction in 1935

Herman B. Byer, Bureau of Labor Statistics

For 10 consecutive years from 1925 building construction in the United States followed a downward trend. It reached its lowest level in 1934, when expenditures on new residential buildings were estimated at 3 cents for every dollar spent on similar operations in 1925. During the same year the cost of all building projects was estimated at slightly more than 9 percent of the total estimated expenditures in 1925.

All types of residential buildings showed gains in both the number of permits issued and the estimated building expenditures. Permits were issued during the year for more than 1,500 apartment houses valued at $70,000,000, as against 350 apartment houses valued at less than $20,000,000 in 1934. Expenditures for 1-family dwellings increased by nearly 158 percent and for 2-family dwellings over 88 percent.

PERMITS AND VALUE OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IN 811 CITIES

Kind of building	1935		1934		Percentage change 1934 to 1935	
	Number of permits	Estimated cost	Number of permits	Estimated cost	Number of permits	Estimated cost
Total	450,123	$836,504,000	350,560	$491,055,000	+ 28.4	+ 70.3
Residential:	53,058	291,227,000	21,773	107,146,000	+ 143.7	+ 171.8
1-family dwellings	49,001	201,954,000	20,198	78,313,000	+ 142.6	+ 157.9
2-family dwellings	2,047	11,127,000	958	5,749,000	+ 113.7	+ 93.5
Multifamily dwellings	1,461	69,176,000	319	18,938,000	+ 358.0	+ 265.3
All other	549	8,970,000	298	4,146,000	+ 84.2	+ 116.4
Nonresidential:	79,439	316,730,000	64,546	215,403,000	+ 23.1	+ 47.0
Factories and workshops	1,584	32,325,000	1,168	18,118,000	+ 35.6	+ 78.4
Public buildings	451	77,005,000	351	41,281,000	+ 28.5	+ 86.5
Public works and utilities	391	26,534,000	394	14,643,000	- .8	+ 81.2
Schools and libraries	434	55,244,000	483	36,530,000	- 10.1	+ 51.2
All other	76,579	125,622,000	62,150	104,831,000	+ 23.2	+ 19.8
Additions, alterations, and repairs	317,626	228,547,000	264,241	168,506,000	+ 20.2	+ 35.6

This downward trend appears to have ended in 1935 when a decided pick-up in residential building featured construction activity of the year. The value of residential buildings for which permits were issued in the 811 cities which report to the Bureau of Labor Statistics increased more than 170 percent over 1934. New houses were provided for 76,515 families in 1935, as compared with less than 30,000 families in 1934.

Marked gains in the volume of new nonresidential building and in additions, alterations, and repairs to existing buildings also occurred in 1935. Expenditures for public buildings rose by more than 86 percent, for public works and utilities by more than 81 percent, and for schools and libraries by 51 percent. The value of factories and workshops constructed was 78 percent higher than 1934. Additions, alterations, and repairs increased by 35 percent.

EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN JANUARY 1936

Seasonal declines in employment and pay rolls occurred in a number of manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries during January. As a result, approximately 650,000 fewer workers were employed than in the previous month. Estimated weekly wage income of workers amounted to $17,900,000 less than in December 1935. As compared with January a year ago, however, 470,000 more wage earners were employed this January, and weekly pay-roll expenditures were $24,500,000 larger.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Factory employment in January was estimated at 6,960,000. This was a decline of about 129,000 workers from the previous month. The total weekly wage income of workers engaged in manufacturing establishments declined from $155,900,000 in December 1935 to $146,920,000 in January 1936. Decreases in factory employment and pay rolls are customary in January as many plants temporarily close down after the first of the year to take inventory of their stocks and to make repairs to their machinery and buildings. Seasonal declines also normally occur at this time of the year in such industries as beet-sugar refining, cottonseed--oil, cake, and meal, confectionery, and cement. Reductions of 10 percent or over in employment and pay rolls occurred in:

	PERCENT OF DECREASE	
	EMPLOYMENT	PAY ROLLS
Beet sugar	74.1	69.7
Cottonseed--oil, cake, meal.	18.8	22.9
Marble, slate, granite . . .	17.8	22.0
Cement	15.5	24.5
Confectionery	15.1	19.1
Cigars and cigarettes . . .	12.2	19.0
Stoves	12.3	15.9
Shirts and collars	11.0	17.3

The groups of manufacturing industries reporting the largest gains in employment and pay rolls during the month were millinery, fertilizers, boots and shoes, and agricultural implements. Smaller seasonal gains also occurred in men's clothing, women's clothing, and a number of other industries.

EMPLOYMENT

Durable-Goods Industries. Employment in the durable-goods industries declined slightly between December 1935 and January 1936. With the exception of a gain of approximately 500 workers in railroad repair shops, all classes of industries in this group reported decreased employment for the month. These losses ranged from fewer than 1,000 workers in the transportation-equipment group to about 15,000 in the lumber and the stone, clay, and glass groups. For the durable-goods group as a whole 50,600 fewer persons were employed in January than in the previous month.

Compared with January a year ago, employment in the durable-goods industries this January advanced by 361,200. All groups shared in this increased employment. Over the 12-month period the number of workers increased by --

113,200 in machinery manufacturing
68,700 in iron and steel
61,400 in transportation equipment
53,200 in lumber
31,300 in nonferrous metals
20,700 in railroad repair shops
12,700 in stone, clay, and glass

Nondurable-Goods Industries. Employment increased by 6,800 in leather manufacturing from December 1935 to January 1936. All other industries in this group had fewer workers on their pay rolls in January. The net loss in employment of 78,600 was caused by decreases of 29,300 in textiles, 28,300 in foodstuffs, 11,700 in paper and printing, 8,300 in tobacco, 4,900 in chemicals, 1,200 in rubber, and 1,700 in the unclassified industries.

Approximately 4,800 fewer workers had jobs in the nondurable-goods industries this

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

JANUARY 1936, DECEMBER 1935, and JANUARY 1935

INDUSTRY	NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED			AMOUNT OF WEEKLY PAY ROLL		
	JANUARY 1936*	DECEMBER 1935‡	JANUARY 1935	JANUARY 1936*	DECEMBER 1935‡	JANUARY 1935
All industries	6,964,200	7,093,400	6,607,800	$146,917,000	$155,909,000	$130,758,000
Durable-goods groups:	*3,231,400*	*3,282,000*	*2,870,200*	*73,238,000*	*79,736,000*	*59,768,000*
Iron and steel	651,200	658,100	582,500	15,880,000	16,965,000	12,798,000
Machinery	812,200	817,500	699,000	18,522,000	19,090,000	14,382,000
Transportation equipment	582,100	582,700	520,700	15,441,000	17,971,000	13,668,000
Railroad repair shops	269,500	269,000	248,800	7,080,000	7,744,000	5,941,000
Nonferrous metals	252,800	260,800	221,300	5,328,000	5,819,000	4,302,000
Lumber	485,800	500,500	432,600	7,613,000	8,187,000	5,872,000
Stone, clay, and glass	178,000	193,400	165,300	3,374,000	3,960,000	2,805,000
Nondurable-goods groups:	*3,732,800*	*3,811,400*	*3,737,600*	*73,679,000*	*76,173,000*	*70,990,000*
Textiles	1,549,600	1,578,900	1,551,200	25,087,000	25,943,000	24,866,000
Leather	286,000	279,200	285,700	5,519,000	5,267,000	5,337,000
Foods	618,700	647,000	634,500	13,304,000	13,786,000	12,750,000
Tobacco	72,200	80,500	78,200	928,000	1,104,000	923,000
Paper and printing	517,800	529,500	507,700	13,111,000	13,646,000	12,397,000
Chemicals	365,000	369,900	361,000	8,149,000	8,387,000	7,620,000
Rubber	110,300	111,500	111,600	2,438,000	2,584,000	2,407,000
Unclassified	213,200	214,900	207,700	5,143,000	5,456,000	4,690,000

* *Preliminary* ‡ *Revised*

January than in January 1935. Gains in employment of 300 in leather manufacturing, 10,100 in paper and printing, 4,000 in chemicals, and 5,500 in the unclassified group were not sufficient to offset losses of 15,800 in foodstuffs, 6,000 in tobacco, 1,600 in textiles, and 1,300 in rubber manufacturing.

PAY ROLLS

Durable-Goods Industries. The total weekly wage income of workers in the durable-goods industries decreased by nearly $6,500,000 from December 1935 to January 1936. All classes of industries in this group shared in the decline. The largest reductions in weekly pay rolls between December and January occurred in transportation equipment ($2,530,000), iron and steel ($1,085,000), and railroad repair shops ($664,000).

Pay-roll disbursements in the durable-goods industries averaged nearly $16,200,000 higher this January than the corresponding month a year ago. All groups participated in the advance. The increases ranged in amounts from $569,000 in the stone, clay, and glass industries to $3,082,000 in iron and steel and $4,140,000 in machinery manufacturing.

Nondurable-Goods Industries. Aside from an increase of slightly more than $250,000 in the weekly pay rolls of the leather group, all nondurable-goods industries reported reduced pay rolls in January.

The net decline of about $2,500,000 for this group resulted from reductions of $856,000 in textiles, $535,000 in paper and printing, $482,000 in foodstuffs, $238,000 in chemicals, $176,000 in tobacco, $146,000 in rubber, and $313,000 in the unclassified group.

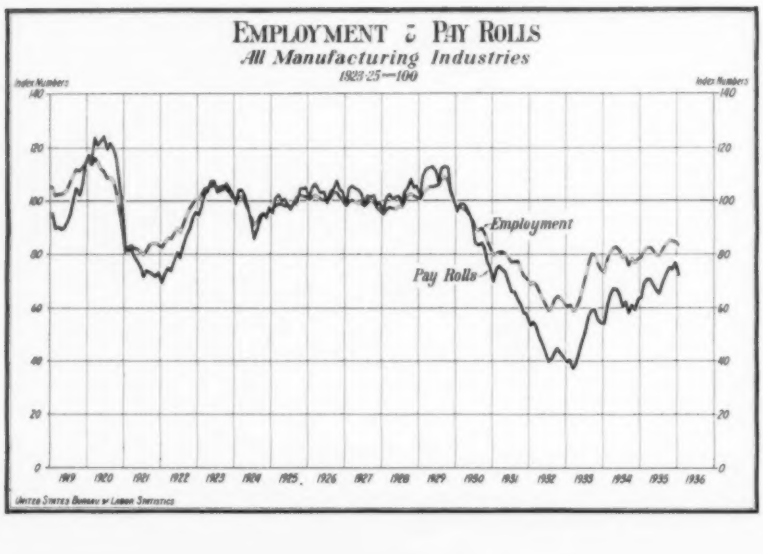
All classes of industries in the nondurable-goods group reported higher weekly wage disbursements in January 1936 than in January a year ago. The increases over the 12-month interval were $5,000 in tobacco, $31,000 in rubber, $182,000 in leather, $221,000 in textiles, $529,000 in chemicals, $554,000 in foodstuffs. $714,000 in paper and printing, and 453,000 in the unclassified industries. The net pay-roll gain for the nondurable-goods group as a whole amounted to $2,690,000.

TREND OF EMPLOYMENT AND PAY ROLLS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

The Bureau of Labor Statistics preliminary employment index for all manufacturing industries was 83.1 in January, as compared with 84.6 in December 1935 and 78.8 in January a year ago. Thus, for every 1,000 workers employed on the average during 1923-25, 831 persons had jobs in January 1936, 846 in December 1935, and 788 in January 1935.

In the durable-goods industries the Bureau's index of employment was 74.6 in January 1936, 75.7 in December 1935, and 66.2 in January 1935. This was a decline of 1.5 percent from December to January, but an increase of nearly 13 percent compared with January a year ago. The nondurable-goods index was 92.3 in January, 94.2 in the previous month, and 92.4 in January 1935. It was thus 2 percent lower in January than in the preceding month and about the same as in January a year ago.

The January 1936 pay-roll index for all manufacturing industries was 72.2, as against 76.5 in the preceding month and 64.3 in January 1935. This means that for every $100 paid out on the average in weekly wages during the base period, 1923-25, $72.20 was paid out in January of this year, as compared with $76.50 in December 1935 and $64.30 in January of last year.


EMPLOYMENT & PAY ROLLS
All Manufacturing Industries
1923-25—100
Index Numbers
Employment
Pay Rolls
1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931 1932 1933 1934 1935 1936
United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

Weekly pay-roll disbursements in the durable-goods industries were 8 percent smaller in January than in December 1935, but about 23 percent above January 1935. The pay-roll index for this group of industries was 64.3 in January 1936, 70.1 in December 1935, and 52.5 in January 1935.

In the nondurable-goods industries the index this January was 82.3, as compared with 85.1 in the previous month and 79.3 in January 1935. This represents a decline of about 3 percent from December 1935, but an increase of nearly 4 percent from January 1935.

HOURS OF WORK AND EARNINGS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Factory employment in January averaged 37 hours per week, about 2 hours less per week than in December 1935, but 2 hours more per week than in January a year ago. Earnings per hour remained unchanged at approximately 57 cents in December and January, as against 56½ cents in January 1935. Weekly wage incomes of workers in manufacturing establishments amounted to $21.25 in January 1936, $22.30 in December 1935, and $20 in January a year ago.

Average weekly hours of work and average hourly and weekly earnings in the five selected nondurable-goods industries in January 1936 were --

Weekly hours:

43.0 in slaughtering and meat packing
40.5 in paper and pulp
36.5 in cotton-goods manufacturing
35.5 in petroleum refining
33.0 in tires and inner tubes

HOURS OF WORK AND EARNINGS IN NONFERROUS METALS AND THEIR PRODUCTS

INDUSTRY	HOURS OF WORK			HOURLY EARNINGS			WEEKLY EARNINGS		
	JANUARY 1936	DECEMBER 1935	JANUARY 1935	JANUARY 1936	DECEMBER 1935	JANUARY 1935	JANUARY 1936	DECEMBER 1935	JANUARY 1935
				Cents	*Cents*	*Cents*			
Aluminum manufactures	40.0	41.0	35.5	55.0	54.5	54.5	$22.15	$22.60	$19.20
Brass, bronze, and copper products.	40.5	42.0	38.0	58.0	57.5	56.5	23.60	24.05	21.50
Clocks and watches	38.0	44.0	34.5	49.0	48.0	48.0	18.55	21.25	16.65
Jewelry	36.5	40.5	35.0	55.5	55.5	54.0	20.55	22.90	19.60
Lighting equipment	41.0	42.5	36.0	55.0	54.5	55.5	22.35	23.10	19.60
Silverware and plated ware	36.0	40.5	34.5	58.0	57.5	56.5	21.00	23.40	19.50
Smelting and refining--copper, etc.	40.0	42.0	37.5	56.5	56.5	55.5	22.55	23.70	20.95
Stamped and enameled ware	38.0	41.0	35.0	51.5	51.0	51.5	19.50	20.95	18.15

In the five selected durable-goods industries average weekly hours and hourly and weekly earnings in January 1936 were --

Weekly hours:

39.5 in foundries and machine shops
39.5 in sawmills
37.0 in blast furnaces and rolling mills
36.5 in brick manufacturing
33.0 in automobiles

Hourly earnings (in cents):

75.0 in automobiles
66.0 in blast furnaces and rolling mills
60.0 in foundries and machine shops
45.5 in brick manufacturing
45.5 in sawmills

Weekly earnings:

$24.90 in automobiles
24.25 in blast furnaces and rolling mills
23.80 in foundries and machine shops
17.75 in sawmills
16.65 in brick manufacturing

Hourly earnings (in cents):

82.5 in tires and inner tubes
60.5 in petroleum refining
55.5 in slaughtering and meat packing
53.0 in paper and pulp
37.0 in cotton-goods manufacturing

Weekly earnings:

$28.25 in petroleum refining
27.05 in tires and inner tubes
23.80 in slaughtering and meat packing
21.40 in paper and pulp
13.50 in cotton-goods manufacturing

Automobile and tire and tube workers averaged slightly shorter hours per week this January than a year ago. In the remaining eight selected industries the weekly hours of work were longer than in January 1935. The increases ranged from 1½ hours in cotton-goods manufacturing and petroleum

refining to 6 hours per week in brick manufacturing and in lumber.

Average hourly earnings advanced in 8 of the 10 selected manufacturing industries. These gains varied in amounts from ½ cent per hour for workers employed in foundries and machine shops, paper and pulp establishments, and slaughtering and meat packing houses to 4 cents per hour for workers in automobile factories. Losses of less than 1 cent per hour were reported in brick and cotton-goods manufacturing.

Weekly wage incomes of factory workers were higher in January 1936 than in January 1935 in 9 of the 10 selected industries. The advances in weekly earnings varied from 20 cents in cotton-goods manufacturing to $3.05 in blast furnaces and rolling mills. Automobile workers averaged 30 cents less per week this January than in January 1935.

EMPLOYMENT, PAY ROLLS, WAGES, AND HOURS IN SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

INDUSTRY	JANUARY 1936*	DECEMBER 1935‡	JANUARY 1935
RETAIL TRADE			
Employment.....	8,161,300	8,640,300	8,114,000
Weekly pay roll.	$57,115,000	$62,684,000	$54,847,000
Weekly hours....	42.0	43.5	41.5
Hourly earnings.	$0.51	$0.49	$0.53
Weekly earnings.	$21.30	$19.60	$20.30
WHOLESALE TRADE			
Employment.....	1,272,900	1,392,100	1,251,400
Weekly pay roll.	$28,552,000	$39,710,000	$26,990,000
Weekly hours....	41.5	42.5	40.5
Hourly earnings.	$0.66	$0.64	$0.64
Weekly earnings.	$27.60	$27.40	$26.10
STEAM RAILROADS			
Employment.....	970,500	970,500	947,600
Weekly pay roll.	$31,100,000	$32,320,000	$29,260,000
Weekly earnings.	$32.45	$33.30	$30.90
BITUMINOUS COAL			
Employment.....	366,000	362,800	367,000
Weekly pay roll.	$7,771,000	$7,682,000	$6,588,000
Weekly hours....	29.5	28.5	27.5
Hourly earnings.	$0.78	$0.81	$0.71
Weekly earnings.	$22.55	$22.75	$19.30
TELEPHONE & TELEGRAPH			
Employment.....	275,700	273,100	277,900
Weekly pay roll.	$10,845,000	$10,932,000	$10,686,000
Weekly hours....	38.5	38.5	38.0
Hourly earnings.	$0.78	$0.78	$0.75
Weekly earnings.	$28.80	$29.25	$27.75

INDUSTRY	JANUARY 1936*	DECEMBER 1935‡	JANUARY 1935
HOTELS			
Employment.....	228,300	255,100	233,700
Weekly pay roll.	$3,208,000	$3,178,000	$3,075,000
Weekly hours....	48.5	48.5	47.0
Hourly earnings.	$0.29	$0.28	$0.28
Weekly earnings.	$13.90	$13.75	$13.50
POWER and LIGHT			
Employment.....	275,500	277,800	264,600
Weekly pay roll.	$8,061,000	$8,175,000	$7,415,000
Weekly hours....	39.0	40.0	38.5
Hourly earnings.	$0.80	$0.79	$0.78
Weekly earnings.	$31.65	$31.50	$28.90
ELECTRIC RAILROADS			
Employment.....	188,600	188,200	190,100
Weekly pay roll.	$5,559,000	$5,653,000	$5,379,000
Weekly earnings.	$29.70	$29.80	$28.15
LAUNDRIES			
Employment.....	190,100	169,100	185,600
Weekly pay roll.	$2,006,000	$2,971,000	$2,812,000
Weekly hours....	41.5	41.0	40.0
Hourly earnings.	$0.37	$0.37	$0.37
Weekly earnings.	$15.90	$15.70	$15.10
DYEING & CLEANING			
Employment.....	42,200	43,400	41,500
Weekly pay roll.	$758,000	$772,000	$736,000
Weekly hours....	41.0	41.0	40.0
Hourly earnings.	$0.42	$0.43	$0.44
Weekly earnings.	$17.40	$17.75	$17.55

* *Preliminary* ‡ *Revised*

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN JANUARY 1936

AGRICULTURE

Cash income from the sale of farm products in January was estimated by the Department of Agriculture at $565,000,000, as compared with $598,000,000 in the previous month and $450,000,000 in January 1935. The decline in farm income from December to January this year was less than usual.

Rental and benefit payments during the first week in January amounted to $1,000,000. No payments were made after the Supreme Court decision which invalidated the processing taxes provided by the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Cash income of farmers, including rental and benefit payments, was $566,000,000 in January, as against $646,000,000 in December and $520,000,000 in January 1935.

During 1935, $583,000,000 was disbursed by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in rental and benefit payments. Total cash farm income from all sources last year amounted to $6,943,000,000, as compared with $6,387,000,000 in 1934, $4,328,000,000 in 1932, and $10,480,000,000 in 1929.

INDUSTRY AND TRADE

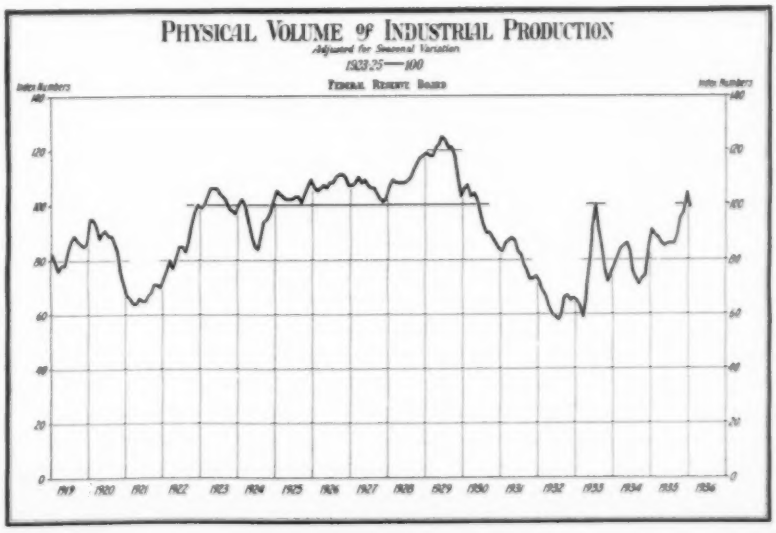
The Federal Reserve Board's index of the volume of industrial production, which includes both manufacturing and mineral industries and which makes allowance for seasonal changes, was 99 in January, as compared with 104 in December 1935, 91 in January a year ago, and 100 for the period 1923-25. This was a decrease of 5 percent from the previous month, but an increase of 9 percent as compared with January 1935.

Sharp reductions in the output of steel and automobiles from the high levels reached in December were the principal factors causing this decrease over the month interval.

Retail trade was reduced more than seasonally in January, reflecting in part the influence of unusually severe weather. Sales by department stores, variety stores, and mail order houses declined by more than the usual seasonal amount.

Building construction activity also receded from the relatively high level established in December as awards for nonresidential and publicly-financed projects decreased.

Seasonal gains in output occurred in bituminous-coal mining and in the production of foodstuffs. Textile mills and leather and shoe factories reported less than seasonal increases in activity. Freight car loadings advanced slightly over the preceding month. Due to continuous cold weather, loadings of coal increased considerably during the month, but rail shipments of miscellaneous freight declined.



BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL BAROMETERS

Automobiles. Approximately 40,000 fewer passenger cars and trucks were produced in January 1936 than in December 1935. Production was estimated at about 367,000 units in January, as against 408,000 in December and 293,000 in January a year ago.

Bituminous Coal. Output of bituminous coal in January was nearly 4,000,000 tons greater than the previous month and 2,000,000 tons greater than January 1935. Estimated production in January amounted to 38,600,000 tons, as compared to 34,830,000 tons in December and 36,680,000 tons in January 1935.

Building Permits. The estimated cost of building construction for which permits were issued in principal cities of the United States in January totaled $77,670,000, as against $75,600,000 in December. This was a gain of nearly 3 percent over the preceding month. Compared with a year ago, the value of permits issued in January 1936 was 123 percent greater than in January 1935.

Electric Power. Output of electric power declined slightly during January. Production averaged approximately 1,939 million kilowatt hours per week, as compared with 1,951 million kilowatt hours per week in December 1935 and 1,753 million kilowatt hours per week in January 1935.

Railroad Freight Car Loadings. Class I railroads averaged 595,000 freight cars loaded per week during January, as against 580,000 cars per week in the previous month, and 553,000 cars per week in January 1935.

Retail Trade. Sales of two large mail order houses declined from $90,800,000 in December to $41,200,000 in January. Large declines in sales are normal for this season of the year. The value of sales this January, however, was $5,000,000 greater than in the corresponding month a year ago.

Steel. Production of steel ingots amounted to 3,049,000 tons in January -- 32,000 tons less than in the preceding month but 177,000 tons more than in January 1935.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT AND RELIEF IN JANUARY 1936

Works Program. Employment on Federal and State projects financed by the Works Program increased by 452,000 during January. Approximately 3,005,000 persons were at work in January, as compared with 2,533,000 in December 1935. Pay-roll disbursements aggregated $138,000,000 in January and $102,000,000 in December 1935.

Public Works. Approximately 198,000 wage earners were employed at the site of P.W.A. construction projects in January as against 232,000 in December 1935. Pay-roll distributions totaled $14,400,000, as compared with $16,360,000 in the previous month.

Emergency Conservation Work. During January employment in Civilian Conservation Corps declined by about 35,000. Slightly more than 471,000 persons received wages amounting to $20,600,000. In the preceding month C.C.C. employment totaled 506,000 and pay rolls $21,900,000.

Emergency Relief Work. Preliminary estimates indicate that less than 20,000 persons engaged in emergency relief work in January received approximately $500,000. In December 1935, 68,500 persons were paid $1,850,000 for relief work.

Emergency Relief. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration averaged about 2,095,000 relief cases per month in 1935, as compared with 1,902,000 in 1934. Expenditures from public funds averaged $64,140,000 per month in 1935, as against $51,750,000 per month in the preceding year.

WHAT HAPPENED TO PRICES IN JANUARY 1936

Wholesale Prices. The general level of wholesale commodity prices was slightly lower in January than in the previous month. It was 2.3 percent higher than in January a year ago. The Bureau of Labor Statistics index of wholesale prices was 80.6 in January 1936, as compared with 80.9 in December 1935, 78.8 in January 1935, and 100 in 1926. The meaning of this is that the same commodities purchased at wholesale for $100 in 1926 cost $80.60 in January, $80.90 in December 1935, and $78.80 in January 1935.

INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES

ITEM	1926	JANUARY 1936	JANUARY 1935	INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) JANUARY 1935 TO JANUARY 1936
	Index	*Index*	*Index*	*Percent*
All commodities	100	80.6	78.8	+ 2.3
Farm products	100	78.2	77.6	+ .8
Raw materials	100	78.1	76.6	+ 2.0
Semimanufactured articles . . .	100	74.8	71.2	+ 5.1
Finished products	100	82.4	80.8	+ 2.0

Retail Food Prices. The price of 84 food products sold at retail in 51 cities in the United States declined by slightly more than 1 percent from December 1935 to January 1936. It was about 3.5 percent higher than in January a year ago. The Bureau of Labor Statistics revised index of retail food prices was 74.8 in January 1936, as against 75.8 in the preceding month, 71.3 in January 1935, and 100 in 1926. In other words, for every dollar's worth of foodstuffs purchased in retail markets in 1926, consumers paid 74.8 cents in January, 75.8 cents in December 1935, and 71.3 cents in January 1935.

AVERAGE RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE

ITEM	RETAIL PRICE		INCREASE (+) OR DECREASE (-) JANUARY 1935 TO JANUARY 1936	
	JANUARY 1936	JANUARY 1935		
	Cents	*Cents*	*Cents*	*Percent*
Bread, pound	8.5	8.2	+ 0.2	+ 2.4
Butter, pound	40.9	38.5	+ 2.4	+ 6.2
Milk, quart	11.8	11.7	+ .1	+ .9
Eggs, dozen	37.3	39.8	- 2.5	- 6.3
Potatoes, pound . . .	2.3	1.7	+ .6	+ 35.3
Lard, pound	17.5	16.9	+ .6	+ 3.6
Pork chops, pound . .	32.1	29.9	+ 2.2	+ 7.4
Round steak, pound . .	34.6	31.3	+ 3.3	+ 10.5
Sugar, pound	5.6	5.4	+ .2	+ 3.7
Coffee, pound	24.2	27.5	- 3.3	- 12.0

Published under authority of Public Resolution No. 57, approved May 11, 1922 (42 Stat. 541), as amended by section 307 Public Act 212, approved June 30, 1932 (47 Stat. 409). This publication approved by the Director, Bureau of the Budget, September 18, 1934, as amended February 18, 1935.